(b) if so, the steps being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Government has sanctioned a project for modernisation of the Patent Office at a cost of Rs. 75.59 crores. The major components of the project include setting up of a National Patent Office by upgrading the existing office in New Delhi, strengthening branch offices, providing trained and qualified personnel in the existing and emerging fields of technologies, computerisation and infrastructural support, financial and operational autonomy, creation of awareness by organising training programmes/ awareness seminars and clearance of backlog of unexamined patent applications.

However, a petition was filed in the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta against setting up of National Patent Office. The Court has ruled against the setting up of National Patent Office. An appeal has been filed against this judgement in the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta.

Assistance for private textile mills in Gujarat

1126. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal has been received from the Gujarat Government for assistance from National Renewal Fund in respect of statutory dues of workers of private textile mills under liquidation in that State;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) by when the funds would be released to the State Renewal fund?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. Proposal from the Government of Gujarat has been received for assistance from the National Renewal Fund for payment of Statutory dues of workers of textile mills under liquidation. However, assistance from National Renewal Fund is available only for Voluntary Retirement Scheme in Central Public Sector Undertakings and for Counselling, retraining and redeployment of rationalised workers.